Flashback

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Count Basie draws 1,000 to University of Arkansas concert

Baritone sax man in the Count Basie Orchestra

Washington County Historical Society

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Preserving our past for future generations

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Contents

154 Working Together and Helping Others, Washington County Women's Extension Clubs
By Andrea Cantrell

168 The "Postage Stamp" Buildings of Fayetteville
By J.B. Hogan

176 Coverlets Woven as Beautiful Necessity, Now Treasured Heirlooms; Handwoven textiles in the Headquarters House Museum
By Laura Lyon Redford

183 When the Count Basie Orchestra Played the UofA

184 WCHS Activities Fostered Local History Advocates; 70-year tradition continues today
By Maylon Rice

188 *Flashback* 2021 Index

On the cover:
This photo of the baritone sax player for the Count Basie Orchestra was published in the 1961 University of Arkansas *Razorback Yearbook* in its coverage of the year's highlights. The band performed on campus that fall at the men's gym. By 1961 the university had been desegregated for several years, and Black students made up less than 2 percent of the enrollment. Photograph courtesy University Libraries Digital Collections, 1961 *Razorback Yearbook* (Vol. 64), p. 43.

Working Together and Helping Others

Washington County Women's Extension Clubs

2021 Winner of the Walter J. Lemke Prize for Best Article on Washington County History

By Andrea Cantrell

Washington County women's extension clubs have initiated, supported, or implemented efforts that have resulted in better homes, better communities, and more outreach services as well as opportunities for personal and professional development. Results of these accomplishments have improved our daily lives in countless ways that we often take for granted. The Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service, a unit of the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture, continues its original mission to provide current research-based information to Arkansas residents delivered now through updated methods.

In the 1980s, the Special Collections department of the University of Arkansas Libraries expanded efforts to preserve and collect records of women's clubs and to document their many contributions. Archivists Ethel C. Simpson and Ellen Compton (Shipley) spoke at club meetings about the importance of and methods for preserving club records. Now students and historians have access to additional collections of documents for researching community, family, and county history. These collections are used for class assignments and scholarly publications as well as biographical, genealogical, and local history research. This article concentrates primarily on the records preserved in Special Collections because it currently preserves and makes available more holdings of Washington County women's club records than elsewhere.

Andrea Cantrell is retired Head of Research Services, University of Arkansas Libraries Special Collections. She researches manuscript collections pertaining to women's clubs and has published Manuscript Resources for Women's Studies, *https://uark.libguides.com/ld.php?content_id=57911477.*

These collections provide opportunities for "rewarding research on subject areas such as the evolution and work of women's clubs, the preservation of traditional skills such as knitting and quilt making, the economic development of rural communities and small towns in Arkansas, women's charitable work, nutrition science, and general standards of living."[1] The Washington County Extension Homemakers Council yearbook for 2019-2021 lists 11 active clubs, for which Special Collections holds records of five: Butterfield, Elkins, Goshen, Savoy, and Growing 59ers which merged with Serendipity. The other six active clubs are Bethel Grove, Moonlighters, Sky Hill, Stony Valley, Viney Grove, and Winslow. Other Washington County EHC club collections in Special Collections include Combs Chapel, Goldenrod, Habberton, Oak Grove, White Rock, and the Washington County Council (WCEHC).

The Smith-Lever Act of 1914 created the Cooperative Extension Service to establish a partnership of the USDA with land-grant institutions and local governments for disseminating research-based information to support rural families and communities. The mission of the Arkansas Extension Homemakers Council (AEHC) is "to empower individuals and families and to improve the quality of living through continuing education, leadership development, and community service."[2] Sadly, records of many clubs are not preserved in a library or museum. If extant, they are still with the club, with former club officers, or family members who have inherited them. Those records are generally unknown and unavailable to researchers who could use them to develop more inclusive narratives of Arkansas state and local history.

Names of extension clubs have changed for a variety of reasons. For example, the Washington County Council of Rural Women's Clubs was founded in 1926 and became the Home Demonstration Clubs Council in 1929 when it joined the newly created Arkansas Council of Home Demonstration Clubs. The name changed to Washington County Extension Homemakers Council, and the state council became Arkansas Extension Homemakers Council, in 1966 when clubs were integrated pursuant to the Civil Rights Act of 1964. That legislation banned segregation and discrimination in public facilities and federally funded programs as well as employment and voting practices. Plans for this change were announced at district meetings in 1963.[3]

Reactions of members to that change can be seen in two Washington County women's comments recorded in oral history interviews. Kathryn Skelton explained that it "went more with what we were."[4] Dorothy Tolley observed that their programs had become less about food topics and "more for family-oriented and community lessons, and for the development of the individual."[5] Community clubs to which women belonged also changed: when they moved, their club voted to change its name or to disband, their club merged with another club, or a different club better met their interests.

Illustration 1. This 1934-'35 photo shows the Home Demonstration Club market at Fayetteville. Organized in 1932, it had 22 active members and 7 associate members, and in 1935 sales totaled $8,508.57. "Among the products sold on this market are eggs, dressed poultry, sausage, ribs, backbone, cheese, cakes, sorghum syrup, handcraft articles, flowers, and bulbs. Each member is assessed 50 cents a week to pay rent and other operating expenses. Two hundred and thirty-five women marketed their products through Home Demonstration Club markets in Washington, Boone, Garland, Benton, and Pope counties this year. Their receipts totaled $13,248.20." Photo from the *Annual Report of Extension Service, 1934-1935*, p. 56. Courtesy University of Arkansas Libraries Digital Collections, Arkansas Extension Circulars.

For example, a group of women in Winslow organized a club with evening meetings so their husbands could take care of the children.[6] And the Growing 59ers has merged with the Serendipity Club.[7] The name Growing 59ers Club was chosen because they started the club in 1959 and all the founding members were pregnant.[8] Ironically, Serendipity Club had been established in 1972 by younger members from the Growing 59ers Club.[9] Members of the newest club in Washington County selected the name "Life Skills" because of the variety of their projects. Most of their work together is primarily accomplished remotely through Zoom meetings, texts, phone calls, and emails; working from home because the members have young children.[10]

Women's extension clubs have come far beyond the initial work of canning clubs and sewing circles. Early extension club work addressed widespread food shortages through gardening and food preservation. Workshops on selection, maintenance, and repair of household equipment supported these efforts. For example, in early workshops members brought in their pressure cooker lids for safety inspection of gauges and steam valves. Agents had replacement seals available on the spot.[11]

In the 1920s and 1930s, women started club markets as well as curb markets, and agents helped farm women produce and sell eggs, butter, canned goods, and handicrafts. For example, extension agent Blanche Elliott helped establish the Washington County Farm Women's Market.[12] Illustration 1 provides a glimpse of the Home Demonstration Club Market in Fayetteville, which was organized in 1932.[13] Blanche Elliott's papers also include clippings and records related to rest camps sponsored by the Federal Emergency Relief Administration for women, 1934 to 1937. These were developed because women were not included in Civilian

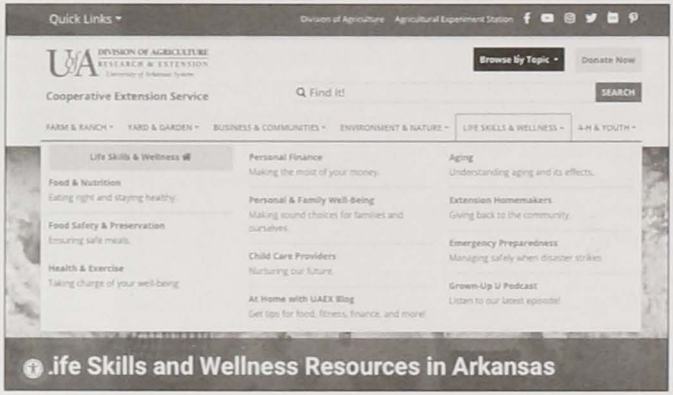

Illustration 2. The current web page (2021) for the Cooperative Extension Service, showing some of the thousands of publications with information on life skills and wellness resources.

Conservation Corps work programs. The rest camps were designed to provide unemployed women with job training and to help them recover from malnutrition, homelessness, and social isolation caused by the Great Depression.[14] Elliot is best known for promoting Ozark crafts and artisans as well as establishing the War Eagle Fair.[15]

The Extension Service continues to evolve in response to changing needs for research-based information about family and home projects, financial management, and consumer affairs through a variety of programs to support continuing education and community service. Now, EHC services address food shortages and food insecurity by working with food banks and other groups. Browse the Cooperative Extension web page at https://www.uaex.uada.edu/life-skills-wellness/default.aspx, shown in Illustration 2, to choose from thousands of publications about food and nutrition, health and exercise, family well-being, parenting resources, personal finance, and other life skills topics.[16] Or, locate information on a specific topic directly by searching online for "Arkansas Extension Service child care," "Arkansas Extension Service container gardening," "Arkansas Extension Service easy recipes," "Arkansas Extension Service monthly budget," etc. These resources are helpful whether you live in town or a place in the country.

Arguably the oldest home demonstration club in the county was the Goldenrod Club, established April 12, 1909, by 12 women who lived in the Braden community. Organized as a sewing club, it became a Home Demonstration Club in 1926 and was interested from its beginnings in "better homes, better schools, better communities, and better government."[17]

One home extension club member explained in an oral history interview that after learning about canning vegetables and improving other household skills, they moved on to compassionate service in the community, which she defined as simply "serving another person in their time of need."[18] Her club's early projects included making diagnostic dolls[19] and child-size pillows for Arkansas Children's Hospital; making birthday cakes

for boys at the Boy Land Home in Winslow; and holding Bingo Night at the Senior Citizen's Center every Friday, donating prizes for the winners.[20] Other examples of early outreach projects to address community needs include work by the Baptist Ford Home Demonstration Club when their members helped the local church with repairs, contributed to the purchase of a church piano, kept a "Mercy Chest" of sick room supplies for neighbors with illness in the family, and placed flags by the gravestones of veterans. The Busy Bees Home Demonstration Club and many other clubs also made the diagnostic dolls, knitted caps for newborn babies, and more items for Children's Hospital as well as making cards and gifts for residents of the Veterans Home.[21] When Winslow Club members learned that many children came to school without socks or underwear, they "bought a lot of socks and little underwear" for teachers to give to the children.[22]

Some clubs arranged games and activities for children who came to meetings with their mothers. One oral history interviewee remembered fondly playing under the quilting frame as her mother made quilts with the club ladies.[23] Another member said her mother's club held special mother-daughter meetings for demonstrations of cooking, embroidery, and crafts like making holiday decorations.[24] Club members also assisted young people as they prepared entries for the junior division at the county fair.

Contests, tours, and awards for different categories at county fairs encouraged use of skills learned at demonstrations, workshops, and classes. Clubs created scrapbooks to record their accomplishments. For example, the Washington County Council collection includes scrapbooks about the Better Homes program for the years 1936-1943. Those projects built or remodeled homes, barns, and other farm structures. Improvements in homes included new floors; washing wood smoke from and painting walls; adding indoor plumbing; and building kitchen cabinets, dining room tables, and other furniture. Several club members recall that their best improvement was when a home demonstration agent helped rearrange their kitchens to create a more efficient workflow, saving time and many steps around the kitchen to prepare meals.[25] Extension circulars about efficient kitchen planning have included *Arrangement of Kitchen Equipment and Planning Kitchens and Dining Areas*.[26]

Several Washington County clubs contributed to the construction of community buildings. For example, Goshen EHC helped with fundraising, planning, and completion of the Goshen Community Center in 1953, which is still in use today. Better Homes projects in Arkansas were very successful. For example, Washington County was one of five counties receiving national merit awards in 1937.[27]

Acquiring new knowledge and skills from county and district extension demonstrations and classes enabled club members to return to their individual clubs and share with their neighbors. This is especially true for

Illustration 3. A bookmobile provided for the use of women attending the annual Arkansas Home Demonstration Clubs' Sixth H.D. Council Camp. The 3-day meeting drew women statewide. In 1938, 28 women from Washington County attended. Courtesy Arkansas State Archives, Little Rock. Scrapbook 07, Arkansas Home Demonstration Clubs scrapbooks.

the annual state meetings. From 1933 until 1938, Arkansas state meetings were held for three days at Camp Pike, where the women slept in tents and ate in mess halls with enlisted men preparing and serving the meals.[28] The Arkansas State Archives preserves a collection of 25 scrapbooks of home demonstration activities for 1933-1966. They are available online and seven of them are for the state meetings at Camp Pike. In 1933, four women from Washington County attended. The program was so well received that by 1938, the Extension Service applied quotas for each county based on their number of club members. In 1938, Washington County had club memberships of 1,395 and could send 28 women to that state meeting. The scrapbooks are filled with program details, announcements of classes and activities, many photographs, and newspaper clippings from across the state about the meetings. It was such an innovative program that it received national recognition as well. Speakers and classes dealt with a wide range of topics. Activities included archery and swimming lessons. Exhibits included a gallery of reprinted art masterpieces and displays of rugs, quilts, and other handiworks that members were invited to bring.[29] That year the Pulaski County Library in cooperation with the Arkansas Library Commission brought a bookmobile for members to use, pictured in Illustration 3.

At the state AEHC meeting each year, awards are given for outstanding projects based on project books reviewed by the district directors. Two Washington County clubs received an Ozark District Award for service projects during the AECH State Meeting, June 8-10, 2021, held in North Little Rock:

- Goshen EH Club members made 38 scrub caps for Pediatric Surgery at Arkansas Children's Northwest in Springdale.[30]
- The Washington County EH Council coordinated a project in which members of all county clubs made cloth face masks to donate for Covid-19 assistance. They distributed 22,595 masks during a 15-week period.[31]

At last year's state meeting five Washington County clubs received Ozark District Project Awards: Washington County EH Council for making crocheted hats for preemie and newborn babies; Bethel Grove for medical teaching dolls; Goshen for medical teaching dolls and comfort pillows; Serendipity-59ers for memory quilts; and Winslow for fundraising and other activities at the Hope Cancer Resource Center.[32]

Early sewing demonstrations, classes, and contests focused on making such practical household items as dish cloths, aprons from cloth flour sacks, and sturdy work clothes. By1924, women in Washington County were interested in creating new clothes using more stylish patterns and fabrics.[33] Clothing contests and public fashion shows of modern styles were good fundraisers. They also addressed the poor image of farm women as backward and old-fashioned from stereotypes of farm women depicted in popular works like *The Grapes of Wrath* and *Tobacco Road.* The image problem and poor living conditions contributed to the state's declining rural population. Home extension clubs helped slow that trend by teaching rural women new techniques for home management to improve living conditions.

The women also gained confidence from developing their talents and acquiring social skills. One longtime club member says it taught her about how public meetings were conducted, how to participate in the discussions, and how to lead a session on something she had learned at a county meeting.[34] Benefits of EHC programs are confirmed by statements from oral history interviews of three Washington County women:

"Well, it's helped me learn to make things. We learned something every month that we didn't know. Tips on what to do, and what not to do."[35]

"I feel like that's how I got my education, was through taking the classes that were available." She went on to say that the money management class helped her get her "first job as bookkeeper at Camp's Department Store" in Springdale.[36]

"I say this very honestly—I really can't imagine what my life would be like if I had not gotten involved with Extension Club work 20 or 21 years ago."[37]

The roles of home demonstration agents have changed over the years. In the beginning they primarily visited farm homes for individual demonstrations or small groups of neighbors. As more clubs were established, agents gave the demonstrations at club meetings. The modes of transportation for early agents included riding horseback, borrowing a horse-and-buggy, hitching a ride with the mail truck, and riding with the farm agent. As the number of clubs increased, demonstrations came to be held primarily in the county extension office and agents began training local leaders to take lessons back to their individual clubs. The first time Dorothy Tolley was asked to give the lesson she said she was panic stricken but that after she "gave it a lot of time and thought" she was able to present it and many subsequent lessons.[38] These volunteer local leaders were

Illustration 4. A photograph of club women working on the quilt for Mary Gilbert's retirement as Washington County Extension Agent in 1985. The photo is courtesy of Anna Goff, Washington County Cooperative Extension Agent – Family and Consumer Sciences.

essential for the success of home demonstration.[39]

The job title for home demonstration agent changed to County Extension Agent – Home Economics in 1974 and to County Agent – Family and Consumer Sciences in 1994. Washington County's agents through 1989 include: Harriet King (1/1/16 to 6/30/46), Mrs. Margaret H. Brownfield (7/1/46 to 6/30/72), and Mrs. Mary H. Gilbert (1/1/73 to 7/30/85). Agents from 1988-2021: Ramona Gordon, Catherine B. Koch, Barbara King, Linda Floyd Chappell and current agent Anna Goff.

When Mary Gilbert retired in October of 1985, clubs in the county made a quilt for her with 48 blocks, each embroidered with a club's name. It hangs in the conference room of the Washington County Extension Office, with framed photographs and newspaper clippings about its preparation and presentation. Photographs of club women at work on the quilt are shown in Illustration 4.[40]

Working with 4-H clubs is a category of club activity often documented in scrapbooks. For example, 11 scrapbooks in the Goshen Extension Homemakers Club collection include information about their 4-H projects.[41] Some clubs invite 4-H students to give talks about their projects at club meetings. The Extension Service continues to encourage this work by funding some agents who work primarily with 4-H groups. Many extension publications have been published about 4-H work, and not all of them are about cooking and sewing. For example, a series of extension circulars that began in 1922 provide examples of games, suggestions for participation in 4-H by home demonstration clubs, and the important role games can have in young people's physical and social development, pointing out that "through play, boys and girls learn cooperation, leadership, loyalty, and sportsmanship."[42] The 4-H House on the University of Arkansas campus was organized in the fall of 1932, providing room and board at discounted rates for many young women from rural Arkansas. Frances Graham of Lowell was among the first nine residents.[43] Though

Illustration 5. The card sent out in 1911 to encourage people to "attend and invite friends and neighbors" to the Washington County Fair. Courtesy University of Arkansas Libraries Digital Collections, Wilbur G. Hanks Family Papers,(MC 1270 box 1, folder 11).

4-H House closed in 1975, alumni remained organized through a bi-annual newsletter and an annual reunion.[44]

The county fair has always been important in Washington County. It brought the community together, which was especially important in the years when talking with your neighbor meant a horseback ride, when access to news was obtained from a weekly newspaper delivered the next day (or later in the country), and when social gatherings were rare. It was a time to celebrate successful harvests, show off prize-winning livestock, and blue-ribbon jellies, learn from exhibits, and hear which products and methods were working well for neighbors. Fairs provided important opportunities for social networking, meeting new neighbors, letting grandparents see old friends, and helping young people meet new ones. Enthusiasm for the Washington County Fair can be seen in a card sent out in 1911 urging everyone to "attend and invite friends and neighbors," shown in Illustration 5.[45]

EHC club members have always participated actively in the county fair. Edythe Miller worked at the fair every year and described it in these words, "First day of work, I take in exhibits and write them in the book. Then, when they judge, I get to watch the judging, then I put the ribbons on the items and put them where they can be put back on the shelves. I work in the scholarship booth if they need me. One year, we had a hamburger booth down there, and we even sold breakfast. If a club member couldn't go, they had to hire somebody in their place, because we felt like everybody needed to work together."[46] Kathryn Skelton reported that the president for the county council automatically served on the Washington County Fair Board.[47] Winslow EHC was active in collecting data for and publishing a history of the community, compiled and edited by Jo Ann Kyle, current club president. Its section on the Winslow Home Extension Club states that the club prepared and served "luncheons for the Judges at the Washington County Fair as well as setting up an informational booth for the fair each year."[48]

Clubs select a committee to plan their education booth. Some popular topics have included: "Recycle Jeans" showing table settings, scrapbook covers, and "all the things you can make out of old jeans."[49] Another provided information about how to offer "therapy on horseback. I can't explain it, but it's therapeutic to ride a horse, if you're handicapped you have to do it under real close supervision."[50] Ann Webb of Springdale had a long list of favorites including one about housing and energy efficiency, which the club also exhibited at an energy fair at the mall.[51] Kathryn Skelton's favorite was about safe grilling, which was the first booth her club entered at the fair, and they won a blue ribbon for it.[52] The Elkins EHC collection has a folder of fair ribbons and scorecards from the Washington County Fair.[53] Washington County clubs were active in the Historical Pageant held in conjunction with the County Fair in September 1951.[54] The WCEHC collections include a series of photographs of Washington County homemakers "in action," most from 1940 to 1960, many of which were used to prepare a collage about the pageant.[55]

Another major project for clubs in Washington County was conducting surveys of county cemeteries, preserving cemetery records for biographical and family history research. The Washington County Extension Homemakers Council collection includes 10 folders of original survey forms and typed lists of cemetery histories and tombstone inscriptions prepared in 1968-1969, arranged alphabetically by cemetery names.[56]

Fayetteville and Washington County earned an early "reputation as the state's cultural and educational center."[57] Fayetteville Female Academy was the first institution in Arkansas for the education of women. Chartered in February 1836, it closed in 1837. Then in 1839, the Fayetteville Female Seminary was founded by Sophia Sawyer.[58] In 1852, Washington County became home to the first two colleges chartered in the state: Arkansas College in Fayetteville and Cane Hill College, which were both chartered in February of that year.[59] Restoration of the Cane Hill College building required decades of work, and the Cane Hill EHC, organized in 1922, helped "financially and with labor on restoration of the old historical Cane Hill College."[60] The building was added to the National Register of Historic Places in November 1982, and restoration was completed in May 2017.[61] In 1871, the University of Arkansas was founded as the first public university in Arkansas, known until 1899 as Arkansas Industrial University. Therefore, is not surprising that so many collections of records are available for clubs in Washington County, the "Athens of the Ozarks." They offer a wealth of first-hand accounts of conditions and events in Washington County communities, describing women's extension service accomplishments as well as the impact of historic events on the everyday lives of their families and neighbors.

More information is available online about collections of women's extension club records in Special Collections at the University of Arkansas Libraries.[62]

Endnotes

[1]Joshua Youngblood, "Home Demonstration Records Document Twentieth Century Services to Rural Families," *Arkansian* 6 (2012), pp. 1-6.
[2]"Member Resources," Arkansas Extension Homemakers' Council, Cooperative Extension Service, https://www.uaex.uada.edu/life-skills-wellness/extension-homemakers/member-resources.aspx.
[3]Elizabeth Griffin Hill, *A Splendid Piece of Work: One Hundred Years of Arkansas's Home Demonstration and Extension Homemakers Clubs* (CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform, 2012), p. 261.
[4]Kathryn Skelton, Oral History Interview, 2. Arkansas Extension Homemakers Council, David and Barbara Pryor Center for Oral and Visual History. Accessed November 19, 2020, at https://pryorcenter.uark.edu/project.php?thisProject=13. Oral history interviews to commemorate "100 years of EHC."
[5]Dorothy Tolley, Oral History Interview, 2. Voices of American Homemakers Oral History Project obtained from Michigan State University Archives and Historical Collections (Collection 00161, volume 1).
[6]"Ellen Center Oral History Interview," 3. Arkansas Extension Homemakers Council, David and Barbara Pryor Center for Oral and Visual History. Accessed November 19, 2020, at https://pryorcenter.uark.edu/project.php?thisProject=13.
[7]Mary King, telephone conversation with author, May 10, 2021.
[8]Kathryn Skelton Oral History Interview, 6. Accessed November 19, 2020.
[9]Mary King, telephone conversation with author, May 10, 2021.
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[11]Opal Cypert Oral History Interview, 12, Voices of American Homemakers Oral History Project obtained from Michigan State University Archives and Historical Collections (Collection 00161, volume 1).
[12]"Records of the Farm Women's Market, 1932-1947." Blanche Hanks Elliott Papers (MC 1272 box 6 folders 1 and 2) Special Collections, University of Arkansas Libraries. Accessed May13, 2021, at https://uark.as.atlas-sys.com/repositories/2/archival_objects/21818.
[13]*Annual Report of Extension Service, Fiscal Year July 1, 1934, to June 30, 1935*, p. 56. Arkansas Extension Circulars, University of Arkansas Libraries Digital Collections. Accessed May 28, 2020, at https://digitalcollections.uark.edu/digital/collection/ArkExt/id/11376/rec/408.
[14]"Clippings and records related to the Home Demonstration Clubs rest camps for women, 1930s." Blanche Hanks Elliott Papers Special Collections, University of Arkansas Libraries (MC 1272 box 5 folder 4). Accessed May 13, 2021, at https://uark.as.atlas-sys.com/repositories/2/archival_objects/2181.
[15]Blanche Hanks Elliott Papers (MC 1272)) Special Collections, University of Arkansas Libraries. Accessed May 13, 2021, at https://uark.as.atlas-sys.com/repositories/2/resources/281. Collection contains multiple files pertaining to War Eagle Craft Fair.
[16]"Life Skills and Wellness," University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture Cooperative Extension Service. Accessed October 6, 2020, at https://www.uaex.uada.edu/life-skills-wellness/default.aspx. Shown in Illustration 2.
[17]Goldenrod EHC Records (MC 980, box1, folder 4) Special Collections, University of Arkansas Libraries.
[18]"Ellen Center Oral History Interview," 4.
[19]Sometimes called teaching dolls or medical dolls, these were made from a simple pattern so children could show doctors where they were hurting, and doctors could explain treatments.
[20]"25th Anniversary Scrapbook, 1934," Goldenrod Extension Homemakers Club (MC 980, box 2, folder 7), Special Collections, University of Arkansas Libraries; and "Ellen Center Oral History Interview," 4.
[21]Edythe Miller Oral History Interview, 22. Arkansas Extension Homemakers Council, David and Barbara Pryor Center for Oral and Visual History. Accessed November 19, 2020, at https://pryorcenter.uark.edu/project.php?thisProject=13.
[22]Ellen Center Oral History Interview, 7.
[23]Kathryn Skelton Oral History Interview, 2.
[24]C. D. Newman, email to author, December1, 2020.

[25]Alene Northup, telephone conversation with author, May 17, 2021.
[26]*Arrangement of Kitchen Equipment*, Circular no. 174, 1924, Arkansas Extension Circulars, University of Arkansas Libraries Digital Collections. Accessed May 18, 2021, at https://digitalcollections.uark.edu/digital/collection/ArkExt/id/11078/rec/163); and *Planning Kitchens and Dining Areas*, Circular no. 495, 1981, Arkansas Extension Circulars, University of Arkansas Libraries Digital Collections. Accessed May 18, 2021, at https://digitalcollections.uark.edu/digital/collection/ArkExt/id/11674/rec/906.
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[28]Camp Pike was renamed Camp Robinson in 1937.
[29]"Home Demonstration Clubs of Arkansas, 1933-1966," Arkansas Digital Archives. Accessed January 15, 2021, at https://digitalheritage.arkansas.gov/home-demonstration-scrapbooks/.
[30]*EHC: Together Again* program for the EHC state meeting June 8-10, 2021, in North Little Rock, 28-29.
[31]Ibid.
[32]*EHC: Home & Community* program booklet for the EHC state meeting August 12-13, 202 in Hot Springs, p. 23.
[33]Erin Hogue, "To Create a More Contented Family and Community Life: Home Demonstration Work in Arkansas, 1912-1952" (PhD dissertation, University of Arkansas, 2017), p. 67, ProQuest Dissertations and Theses Global. Accessed November 2, 2020 https://scholarworks.uark.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=3519&context=etd.
[34]D. S. Janes, telephone conversation with author, November 11, 2021.
[35]Edythe Miller Oral History Interview, 15.
[36]Kathryn Skelton Oral History Interview, 8.
[37]Ann Webb Oral History Interview, 8. Voices of American Homemakers Oral History Project obtained from Michigan State University Archives and Historical Collections (Collection 00161, volume 1).
[38]Dorothy Tolley Oral History Interview, 2. Voices of American Homemakers Oral History Project.
[39]Connie Bonslagel, "Expanding and Improving Local Leadership," in Ralph Kenneth Bliss, et al, eds., *The Spirit and Philosophy of Extension Work as Recorded in Significant Extension Papers* (Washington: Graduate School, USDA, and Epsilon Sigma Phi, 1952), 151-153).
[40]Information about Washington County home extension agents through 1989, and photographs of Gilbert quilt received by author from Anna Goff, Washington County Cooperative Extension Agent – Family and Consumer Sciences, June 8, 2021. Photograph shown in Illustration 4.
[41]Goshen Extension Homemakers Club Records (MC 2292) Special Collections, University of Arkansas Libraries. Accessed November 19, 2020, at https://uark.as.atlas-sys.coithm/repositories/2/resources/1146.
[42]*Games and Plays for 4-H Clubs* (Extension Circular 352, 1937): 3. Circular no. 352, 1937, Arkansas Extension Circulars, University of Arkansas Libraries Digital Collections. accessed November 12, 2020, at https://digitalcollections.uark.edu/digital/collection/ArkExt/id/11417/rec/475.
[43]"Students Live Cooperatively in 4-House," *Arkansas Alumnus* 10 (December), 1932, p. 9.
[44]University of Arkansas 4-H House Materials, (MC1693) Special Collections, University of Arkansas Libraries. Accessed November 22, 2020 https://uark.as.atlas-sys.com/repositories/2/resources/472.
[45]Wilbur G. Hanks Family Papers,(MC 1270 box 1, folder 11) Special Collections, University of Arkansas Libraries. Digital image is from "Shared History," University of Arkansas Libraries Digital Collections at https://digitalcollections.uark.edu/digital/collection/HappyHollow/id/384/rec/22 . See Illustration 5.
[46]Edythe Miller Oral History Interview, 20.
[47]Kathryn Skelton, Oral History Interview, 7.
[48]*Winslow, Arkansas: Past and Present, 1905-2005* ([Winslow, Ark.]: [Winslow Centennial Book Committee], 2005):96.
[49]Edythe Miller Oral History Interview, 17.
[50]Ellen Center Oral History Interview, 12.
[51]Ann Webb Oral History Interview, 3. Voices of American Homemakers Oral History Project obtained from Michigan State University Archives and Historical Collections (Collection 00161, volume 1).

[52]Kathryn Skelton Oral History Interview, 7.
[53]Elkins Extension Homemakers Club of Washington County Records (MC 982, box 2 folder 10) Special Collections, University of Arkansas Libraries. Accessed January 13, 2021, at https://uark.as.atlas-sys.com/repositories/2/resources/200.
[54]Washington County Extension Homemakers Council Records MC 906 box 3 folder11) Special Collections, University of Arkansas Libraries. Accessed January 13, 2021, at https://uark.as.atlas-sys.com/repositories/2/resources/930.
[55]Washington County Extension Homemakers Council Records (MC 906 box 4 folders 58-66) Special Collections, University of Arkansas Libraries. Accessed January 13, 2021, at https://uark.as.atlas-sys.com/repositories/2/resources/930.
[56]Washington County Extension Homemakers Council (MC 906) box 3 folders 2-10 Special Collections, University of Arkansas Libraries. Accessed December 10, 2020, at https://uark.as.atlas-sys.com/repositories/2/resources/930.
[57]"Fayetteville (Washington County)," CALS Encyclopedia of Arkansas. Accessed January 5, 2021, at https://encyclopediaofarkansas.net/entries/fayetteville-1006/.
[58]Emily Penton, "Typical Women's Schools in Arkansas before the War of 1861-65," *Arkansas Historical Quarterly*, Winter, No. 4 (Winter, 1945), p. 325. Accessed December 3, 2020, at https://www.jstor.org/table/40018367.
[59]"Cane Hill College," CALS Encyclopedia of Arkansas. Accessed January 5, 2021, at https://encyclopediaofarkansas.net/entries/cane-hill-college-4519/.
[60]Reported by club president Frances Hayes on a survey form returned to the Washington County EHC Council in 1986. Author received copy from Anna Goff, Cooperative Extension Agent – Family and Consumer Sciences, June 8, 2021).
[61]"Cane Hill College Celebrates Restoration," *Washington County Enterprise-Leader,* May 10, 2017. Accessed January 6, 2021, at https://wcel.nwaonline.com/news/2017/may/10/cane-hill-college-celebrates-restoratio/.
[62]For more information about these collections, descriptive finding aids are available online. Links to finding aids of women's extension club records collections at the University of Arkansas Libraries:
Butterfield EHC (MC 960) https://uark.as.atlas-sys.com/repositories/2/resources/775
Combs Chapel EHC (MC981) https://uark.as.atlas-sys.com/repositories/2/resources/1611
Elkins EHC (MC982) https://uark.as.atlas-sys.com/repositories/2/resources/200
Goldenrod EHC (MC980) https://uark.as.atlas-sys.com/repositories/2/resources/776
Goshen EHC (MC2292) https://uark.as.atlas-sys.coithm/repositories/2/resources/1146.
Growing 59ers' EHC (MC 959) https://uark.as.atlas-sys.com/repositories/2/resources/197
Habberton EHC (MC 1684) https://uark.as.atlas-sys.com/repositories/2/resources/467
Oak Grove EHC (MC1106) https://uark.as.atlas-sys.com/repositories/2/resources/1665
Savoy EHC (MC 906 and MC 939) https://uark.as.atlas-sys.com/repositories/2/resources/238
Washington County Extension Homemakers Council (MC 906) https://uark.as.atlas-sys.com/repositories/2/resources/930
Washington County Extension Homemakers Council Addendum (MC 936) https://uark.as.atlas-sys.com/repositories/2/resources/192
White Rock EHC (MC 933) http://libraries.uark.edu/specialcollections/findingaids/whiterock.html

Finding aids for additional collections are available at ArchivesSpace https://uark.as.atlas-sys.com/. A useful, though dated, introduction to other types of women's clubs is available online, *Manuscript Resources for Women's Studies*,1989. compiled by Andrea E. Cantrell. It provides brief descriptions of 142 collections available at that time in Special Collections, University of Arkansas Libraries, with an introduction and an extensive index. https://uark.libguides.com/ld.php?content_id=57911477.

Author's note: The author would like to thank the numerous EHC club members who generously shared their experiences in home extension clubs: my sister Diana Janes (a city girl who has become an outstanding farm wife), Candes Wilson, Alene Northrup, Jo Anne Kyle, Janice Neighbor, and more as well as interviewees and interviewers of oral history projects; extension service personnel including Anna Goff who is so helpful and Tamara Allen who referred me to several important early contacts; Michael Dabriishus, Ethel C. Simpson, Ellen Compton, and other

Special Collections staff whose efforts preserved many of these collections. I extend heartfelt gratitude for invaluable assistance in obtaining copies of original documents to Robin Roggio in the Interlibrary Loan department of the University of Arkansas Libraries; Kara Flynn in Special Collections at the University of Arkansas Libraries; and Sarah Roberts, Archivist at Michigan State University Archives and Historical Collections.

Flashback *regrets the error*

Please note two corrections in the article "Springbrook Farm: The Old White Farmhouse on the Prairie now part of regional medical center," by Nancy Hartney, (*Flashback*, Fall 2021). Corrected text is in italics.

On page 145, lines 27-29 should read:

"She [Nancy Powell Kehn] recounts how she and Jim Powell found their first calf, umbilical cord still attached, in a ditch *not far from the farm*."

On page 147, endnote 3, should read:

"[3]Nancy Powell Kehn, phone interview by author, Fayetteville, AR, 25 March 2021. Her memories are included herein as the last owner of Springbrook Farm. She lived there with her first husband, Jim Powell, *whose planning and initiative made the farm purchase a reality. He was later killed in an auto accident*. She and her second husband, John Kehn, also shared the farm before they eventually moved from Fayetteville to Hogeye. The house was constructed 1929-1941 during the Great Depression. At one point *Herbert and Ruby Thomas* returned to the farm and spoke with Powell Kehn about building the farmhouse and how the construction provided men with work."

The "Postage Stamp" Buildings of Fayetteville

Tiny structures have a place in city's history

Loyal fans of J.B. Hogan follow his weekly Facebook postings about the history of Fayetteville and Washington County. This article is based on one such post.

By J.B. Hogan

Despite the recent development boom which has changed much of the town, Fayetteville still has many architecturally and historically interesting buildings and houses. One unusual type that might be overlooked is the "postage stamp" building – tiny structures that are typically not very wide nor very long.

This kind of little building pops up here and there in various locations around town. Because they are so small, sometimes they might not get noticed as we walk or drive around town. A more careful look reveals that these small edifices are not only unique physically but usually have some interesting history as well.

J.B. Hogan is a local historian and author who has published more than 270 stories and poems and 11 books. He is a frequent contributor to Flashback. *His most recent article (Fall 2021 issue) was "Fayetteville and the Influenza Epidemic of 1918."*

300 W. Mountain Street

One such postage stamp building is located at 300 W. Mountain Street on the northwest corner with Locust Avenue. Constructed about 1933, this little place was originally a Gulf service station. The small blue building to the west was a mechanic's bay (See photo below taken at an earlier date when the building held an apparel shop).

The business remained a Gulf station until the mid-1950s when it became a Skelly service station. From the mid-1960s through most of the 1990s, it was a radiator shop. Since then it has housed a bicycle shop, a clothing store and most recently a skin care business.

Photos by Patsy Watkins (top) and J.B. Hogan (above)

352 N. West Avenue

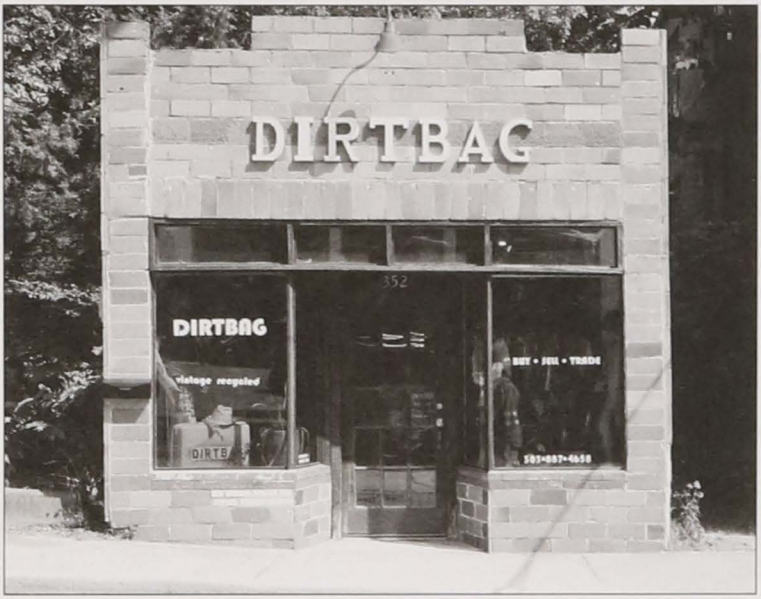

Photo by Patsy Watkins

Built in 1927 by D. W. and Inez Read, the little brick structure at 352 N. West Avenue was home to Henry J. Dever's grocery store from around 1935 until the 1950s. According to Fayetteville City Directories, in 1957 it was home to the Fayetteville Humane Society.

In 1965 it housed Scott Surgical Appliances and in the mid-1980s was used as a warehouse by the Bike Route bicycle shop. Old World Classics (stone cast) was here in 2005. It was then Mae's Emporium for several years and is now a store named Dirtbag.

204 N. Block Avenue

Photo by J.B. Hogan

Over the years, the very tiny building at 204 N. Block Avenue, former home of The Curious Book Shoppe, has housed many businesses, including an insurance company, a beauty salon, and a graphics store. Although it was probably built around 1907-1908 by J. A. Hudson,[1] the first reference to a business at this address is in the 1947 Fayetteville City Directory when it was a household appliance store.

This highly unique little building was razed in 2019 for a large development on the northeast corner of N. Block Avenue and Spring Street.

110 W. Meadow Street

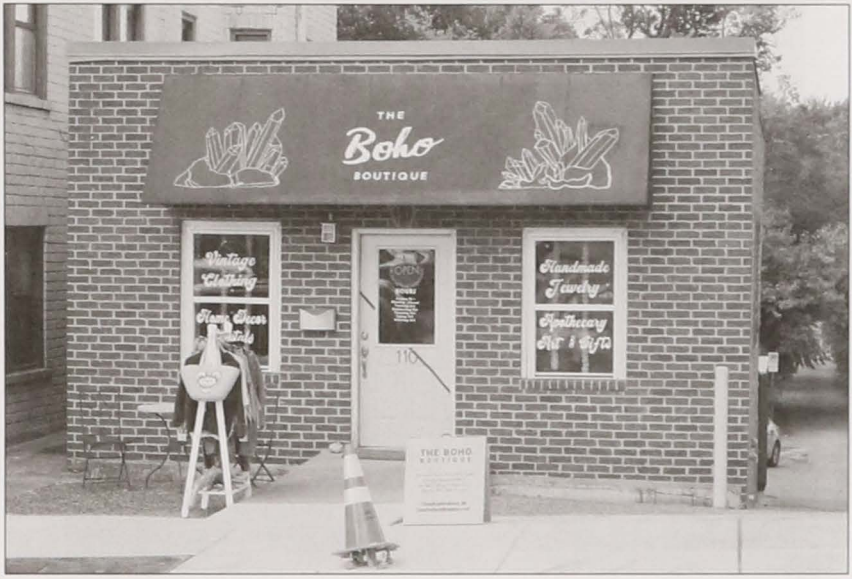

Photo by Patsy Watkins

Just off the Square at 110 W. Meadow Street is another tiny building. Currently the home of Boho Gypsy, a boutique, this little edifice was constructed sometime in the 1920s.[2] From the late 1920s until recent years, the address of this building seems to have been 120 W. Meadow.[3] For much of this time it was a residence but long ago housed a beauty shop and more recently was the office of a landscape designer business as well.

Fayetteville City Jail – 1885 – Exterior (2017)

Photo by J.B. Hogan

In addition to the tiny buildings described so far, there's one that is much older and perhaps harder to find, yet is hiding in plain sight. Located behind the series of historic structures on College Avenue, the historic Washington County Courthouse (1904-1905), National Guard Armory (1929), Legion Hut (1941), and historic Washington County Jail (1896-1897), this little building is an old Fayetteville City Jail built in 1885.

Years ago when the original McIlroy Bank building was being torn down on the north side of the Square, the Fayetteville City Council Minutes that included those of 1885 were found and saved. They ended up in the University of Arkansas Special Collections department and give the details of this amazing edifice.

Most frequently referred to as the "calaboose," lease or purchase of the land upon which it was to be built was authorized by the City Council in April of 1885. On May 11, 1885, City Marshall T. J. Taylor was given $300 dollars to lease the land and build the jail. By the June 11, 1885, council meeting, Marshall Taylor was authorized to use the "lately Constructed Calaboose as a City Prison." By late August or early September, a "stockade," assumed to be of wood, was built—for $45—around the new "Calaboose."[4]

Fayetteville City Jail – 1885 – Interior (2017)

Photo by J.B. Hogan

Unfortunately, the stockade is long gone and then after the National Guard Armory was built in 1929, the old jail became a boiler room for the newer building. Luckily for local history enthusiasts, the old jail—looking for all the world like the relic it is (some might say positively medieval)—is still with us after all this time.

Endnotes

The author would like to thank local preservationist Annie Dowling for suggesting this topic and for identifying several of the buildings discussed here.

[1]Washington County Archives, Anthony J. Wappel, Archivist.
[2]Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, 1919 and 1930.
[3]Fayetteville City Directories, 1925-1926 through 2001.
[4]Fayetteville City Council Meeting Minutes, 1885.

Washington County Historical Society

announces

The 13th Annual Competition for Articles on History of Washington County

The Washington County Historical Society announces the 13th annual competition for two awards for articles about the history of Washington County. Each award carries an honorarium of $250. The two categories of awards are:

* The Walter J. Lemke Prize for best article on Washington County history, with preference given to subjects outside Fayetteville;
* The Lessie Stringfellow Read Prize for best article on Washington County history, with a focus on Fayetteville.

Topics can address any aspect of county history, including archeology, lives of individuals, architecture, arts and crafts, or records of institutions, and can be set in any time period. All historians – both professional and amateur – are invited to submit articles. Winners will be recognized at the society's annual meeting in October.

Deadline for submissions is June 30, 2022.

Judging is based on contributions to the expansion of the county's history; originality of the subject; and use of primary and secondary sources. Articles must be original material, and not previously published.

Submissions must be typed, and preferably include endnotes. Length – not including endnotes – can range from a minimum of 4,000 words up to a maximum of 40 pages. The title page should be headed: "WCHS Prize," followed by the manuscript full title, and the author's name, mailing address, telephone number, and email.

Entries become the property of the Washington County Historical Society and will not be returned. All submissions will be considered for publication in the WCHS journal *Flashback*. WCHS reserves the right to award one or no prizes. Back issues of *Flashback* are available at the Fayetteville Public Library.

Submit manuscripts by June 30, 2022, by mail or email:

* By mail: Patsy Watkins, WCHS Prize, Washington County Historical Society, 118 E. Dickson Street, Fayetteville, AR 72701.
* Email: Patsy Watkins at pwatkins@uark.edu

For questions, contact Watkins at pwatkins@uark.edu.

Coverlets Woven as Beautiful Necessity, Now Treasured Heirlooms

Handwoven textiles in the Headquarters House Museum

By Laura Lyon Redford

The mechanization of the textile making process was one of the primary drivers of the industrial revolution. Prior to the late 1700s, growing fiber-producing plants or animals, harvesting the fiber, spinning it into thread, and then weaving cloth was a time-consuming activity of daily life for many, especially in rural areas without access to imported goods. By 1810, cloth was being woven in factories on power looms and sold in stores and by peddlers. However, its availability and cost made it a luxury item for many in frontier areas. Many women—and it was primarily women who performed the tasks of spinning thread and weaving cloth—were still weaving household linens, fabric for clothing and bedding, and sometimes even feed sacks, well into the middle 1800s.

As part of the ongoing Ozark Coverlet Project, Marty Benson and this author have examined and documented handwoven bed coverings in ten area collections, including those owned by the Washington County Historical Society which are on display at the society-owned Headquar-

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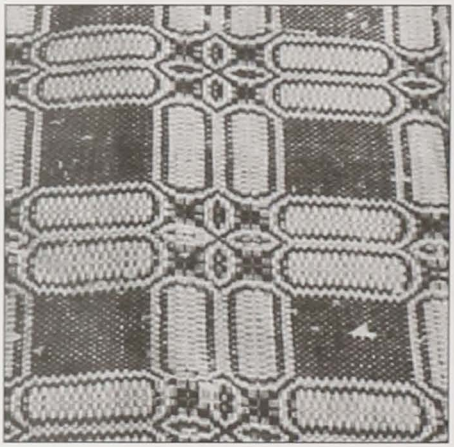
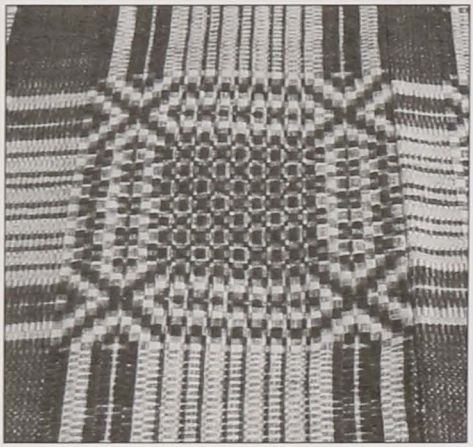
Laura Lyon Redford is a longtime member of the Northwest Arkansas Handweavers Guild and instructor in various levels of shaft-loom weaving. With Martha L. Benson, she is co-author of Ozark Coverlets: The Shiloh Museum of Ozark History Collection. *Together, they continue to examine and document handwoven coverlets through their Ozark Coverlets Project.*





Closeups of intricate patterns woven into two coverlets at Headquarters House Museum. Both are dark blue on a natural-colored cotton background. The detailed work suggests the labor and artistry involved in creating these textiles.
Left, the Kernodle coverlet. Right, the Garrett coverlet. Photographs by Laura Redford.

ters House Museum near the square in Fayetteville. Most items tell a story of their time but have extra meaning when they can be associated with the owner or maker. While largely overlooked in historical collections, almost nothing is more personal than textiles, in particular clothing or bedding. Coverlets were so intimately connected to their owners, probably used by the hands that made them, witness to the everyday joys and sorrows of the family. They seem vibrant, almost animate, as we uncover each one's character and idiosyncrasies and learn about the families that owned them.

Quilts and coverlets serve the same function but differ in their construction. A quilt is usually made up of three layers: a backing, an interior layer of insulation such as a cotton or wool batt or an old blanket, and a decorative top that is often made of pieces of cloth sewn together in a pleasing design. The three layers are sewn together on the edges and the surface is either tied at regular intervals or stitched together in a design.

Unlike a quilt that may be made of many small pieces of cloth, a coverlet is woven in one long length of yardage the width of the loom, usually between 28 and 32 inches, cut into two or three strips or panels, and then sewn together to cover the bed. The term "overshot" describes the technique used to weave the coverlet. The colored wool pattern threads float over several cotton warp threads at once to make blocks of color which are arranged into a pattern.

Looms, similar to the one pictured on the following page, were common in homes of early settlers in Washington County. Sometimes one home served as the weaving workshop in a community. Housewives might bring their home-spun wool or cotton and order a certain length of yardage for a specific purpose. Home weavers often bartered cloth to a store in payment for other items, such as coffee or flour.

Charity Kimmins Garrett and husband James Bromfield Garrett, ca. late 1800s (both photos courtesy Shiloh Museum of Ozark History, John C. Garrett Collection (S-90-21N197:6 and S-90-21N198:1).

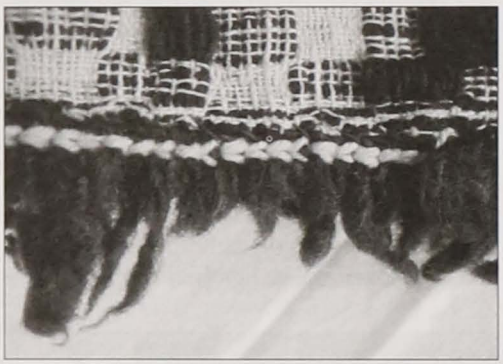
Coverlet Pattern: Governor's Garden Variation. Weaver: Charity Kimmins Garrett

Charity Kimmins was born in Tennessee in 1815. Her father, Joseph Kimmins, was born in Ireland in 1763 and her mother, Margaret "Peggy" Cooper, was born in Virginia in 1773. The community of Kimmins, Tennessee, was named for the family.

Charity married James Bromfield Garrett, who was born in a covered wagon on the road from North Carolina to Tennessee. Between approximately 1837 and 1855, they had two sons and four daughters. In 1857/8, they moved from Tennessee to a farm about one-half mile

Loom used by the Heagarty and Ritter families in Cave Springs, Benton County. Courtesy Shiloh Museum of Ozark History, Jerry Ritter Collection (S-2004-20-1). The loom is similar to those used to weave overshot and dimity coverlets. Warp threads are held under tension on the loom, and the weft, or pattern, threads are inserted in the warp threads. Photograph by Laura Redford.

Left, the Garrett coverlet woven by Charity Kimmins Garrett, spread on a bed at Headquarters House Museum. The seam running down the center of the coverlet joining the two panels matches so well, it is barely visible in this photo.
A closeup of the coverlet below shows details of the woven threads and the attachment of the fringe. Both photographs by Laura Redford.



east of Mayfield in Washington County. As was the case with most families during this time, the Civil War deeply affected them. Both sons fought with the Confederate Army in the Battle of Pea Ridge, and their oldest son, Joseph, died in 1862 while in service.

Like many women in her generation, Charity must have been skilled at spinning thread, dyeing and weaving it into household linens and clothing. Her family members recalled that "Grandmother Garrett would take the wool, card it and weave it into uniforms for the Confederate Soldiers," and that she "would spin the wool late at night and early in the morning and her children thought that she never went to bed."

It is believed that Charity probably brought this coverlet (pictured above) to the Ozarks from Tennessee. The coverlet's large motifs, relatively coarse threads, and vivid colors give an overall impact of substance and drama. The fringe was made by inserting short lengths of heavy wool into the chains of a length of crocheted two-ply thread. The wool plied on itself, forming a sturdy and heavy fringe. Despite its difficulty and complexity, the weaver has executed the pattern perfectly.

Charity died at the home of one of her daughters in 1896 at the age of 81. She had been a widow for nine years. She and James were buried in a family plot near their home. Unfortunately, the stones have been removed and the cemetery plowed over.[1]

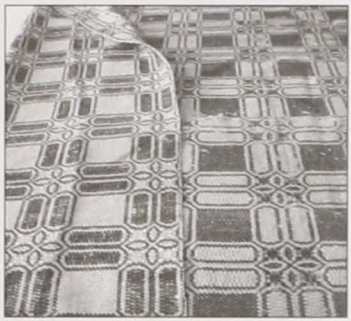
COVERLET PATTERN: KING'S FLOWER VARIATION. WEAVER: UNKNOWN

An authority on the Elizabethan theatre, Dr. George R. Kernodle was a professor of speech and drama at the University of Arkansas from 1952 to 1974. He was instrumental in the establishment of the graduate-level humanities program at the University and served for several years as its director.[2]

Dr. and Mrs. Kernodle donated the coverlet to the Washington County Historical Society in 1984, stating that it had belonged to Dr. Kernodle's grandmother but did not specify which grandmother. His maternal grandmother, Sarah Katherine Jarrell Slaughter, was born in 1852 in Alabama. She or her mother, Sarah Ann Jones Jarrell (1828-1873), may have woven the coverlet. His paternal grandmother, Jennie Frances Schaub Kernodle, was born in 1845 in North Carolina. She or her mother, Amanda Lambeth (1826-1855), might have been the weaver.[3]

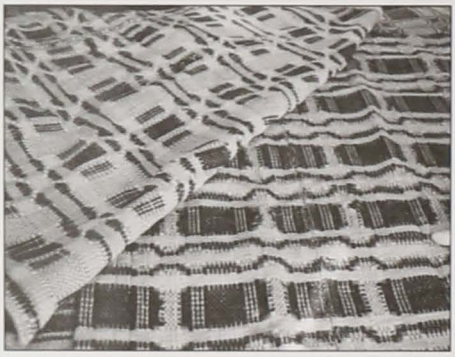
Whomever the weaver, she should receive praise for this large, impressive, three-panel overshot coverlet in blue and ivory. The weaving is exceptional, the color of the pattern weft is still rich and consistent, and both sides of this well-cared-for coverlet are pleasing to the eye.

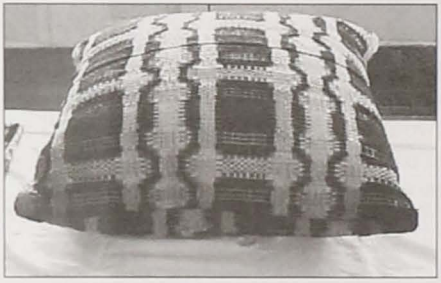
Originally, the coverlet was probably assembled so the pattern weft made a continuous diagonal line across its face. This diagonal line is present in many overshot patterns, and is typically thought to be the right side, or public face, of the coverlet. However, this coverlet has been seamed so that the "wrong" side is the public face of the coverlet, perhaps because its owner liked the design best from this perspective.



Coverlet donated by Dr. and Mrs. George Kernodle. On the left, the coverlet is shown spread full length on the bed at Headquarters House Museum for study by textile researchers. Right, the coverlet is folded back on itself to show how the pattern on its "back" side (left half of photo) is the reverse of that on the "top" side (right side of photo). Photographs by Laura Redford.

PATTERN: CATALPA FLOWER, REPURPOSED COVERLET. WEAVER: UNKNOWN





Top, the window curtain from the bathroom at Headquarters House Museum, seen folded back on itself so both sides of the pattern are visible. Curtain and pillow were made by repurposing fabric from a coverlet. Bottom, the companion pillow. Photographs by Laura Redford.

This window curtain was hanging in the bathroom at Headquarters House Museum and quickly made it to the examination table after its discovery. A companion pillow was also discovered. There is no record of the donor or maker of these pieces.

Once a lively red, or possibly dusty rose, and blue coverlet, this fabric has been repurposed for curtains carefully constructed to fit a specific window. Excess material was used for a pillow cover. The curtains hang so that the warp threads run horizontally (the pattern is turned on its side), and the now-vertical colored weft stripes dominate the design. The skilled weaver paid careful attention to the pattern's frequent changes in color and size of each repeat so the panels would meet precisely when sewn together.

PATTERN: DIMITY. WEAVER: UNKNOWN

This spread (photographs on following page) was discovered under several layers of bedding on the bed at the Headquarters House Museum. Another smaller piece was discovered later in a trunk. Unfortunately, there is no record of the donor or maker of this piece.

The definition of dimity has evolved over the many years of its use describing fabric. Modern sewers might think of a somewhat sheer fabric with a small pattern. However, 200 years ago, a dimity bed cover would have been an all-white one with fine threads alternating plain and raised stripes similar to seersucker. The light, slightly puckered texture of the weave structure creates a lovely dappled pattern made by light and shadow, one that exhibits the skills of a very accomplished weaver. Made of cotton, these were more common in southern states and used to the point

Two views of the dimity coverlet. The tapemeasure in the righthand photo helps give a sense of the scale of the weaving. Photographs by Laura Redford.

that many did not survive to be included in today's museum collections. To find a fully intact piece in such good condition is a pleasant surprise.

If these coverlets could talk, they would reveal the human history better than any book; but, they cannot tell us everything and we must guess at much. However much we discern, they will continue to bear silent witness to history.

Endnotes

[1]John C. Garrett, "James Bromfield Garrett," in Section *Families in History of Washington County Arkansas*, (Springdale: Shiloh Museum of Ozark History, 1989), pp 1025-7.
[2]"Dr. Kernodle To Retire From UA," *Northwest Arkansas Times*, June 4, 1974, Newspapers.com.
[3]All of Dr. Kernodle's genealogical information taken from https://www.findagrave.com: memorial pages for George Riley Kernodle, memorial number 152455634; Annie Slaughter Kernodle, memorial number 48253168; Sarah Ann Jones Jarrell, memorial number 74358855; Sarah Katherine Jarrell Slaughter, memorial number 21547547; Julius Arthur Kernodle, memorial number 48252793; Jennie Frances Schaub Kernodle Thomas, memorial number 104193443.

When the Count Basie Orchestra Played the UofA

Count Basie performs in the UofA men's gym. Photo courtesy University of Arkansas Libraries Digital Collections, *Arkansas Traveler*, Vol. 55, No. 8, September 29, 1960.

"Count Basie arrived at the men's gym a little late last night, but if applause is any indication, the crowd of almost 1,000 didn't mind a bit."

So reported a front-page story in the University of Arkansas *Arkansas Traveler* student newspaper on Thursday, September 29, 1960. Count Basie and his band had come directly to the campus from a taping in Los Angeles on the Fred Astaire TV show. *The Traveler* further noted that they were well pleased with their reception, and Basie "described the crowd of University students and Fayetteville residents with adjectives like 'wonderful' and 'excellent.'"

After a 2-hour performance, the orchestra left for an appearance at the Regal theater in Chicago, to be followed by a 3-week tour with the Stan Kenton orchestra.

The Traveler also reported that "A minor difficulty arose when Basie found that the band was to be paid by check instead of cash. He said that there was really no problem, but their regular manager wasn't with the band and he wanted to pay his musicians."

The story quoted Basie, "'You know these cats, they gonna want some bread for the trip [to Chicago], . . . [a]nd if we don't have the cash, they gonna hit me for it. And you know they can hit mighty hard.'"

At the time the UofA was integrated but not substantially. The first Black undergrads had been admitted 5 years earlier; by 1969 Black students were about 2 percent of the enrollment. Count Basie and his orchestra were not the first Black musicians to play on campus. In 1955 another jazz great, Louis Armstrong, performed in the fieldhouse, according to the University Relations UofA history timeline (https://www.uark.edu/about/time-line.php).

WCHS Activities Fostered Local History Advocates

70-year tradition continues today

By Maylon Rice

As the final installment of the 70th Anniversary of the Washington County Historical Society is being written, it is only proper to pay homage to many of the founders of the original group of interested locals in preserving the history of the county.

One of the most often overlooked members of that original group of interested citizens was a prolific collector of manuscripts, books, papers, and photographs—Tom C. Feathers, the first secretary/treasurer of the Washington County Historical Society.

Thomas Feathers (1909-1973) was a printer at the *Fayetteville Daily Democrat* and later a chiropodist, or non-medical practitioner for ailing feet.

He was a founding member of the WCHS and during his lifetime at one time or another held all the offices in the society, as well as serving as a trustee of Headquarters House. Upon its acquisition in the 1960s, the house had its own board of trustees through renovation and restoration prior to becoming the property of WCHS.

After his death, Feathers' wife Mildred donated her husband's collection of historical materials to the society, where it was set up as the Tom Feathers Memorial Library. The nucleus of the collection was later presented to the University of Arkansas Libraries Special Collections, as it

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Maylon Rice is past president of the Washington County Historical Society; he was WCHS president 2017-2019 and currently serves on the Property Management Committee which oversees maintenance of Headquarters House and Ridge House.

Roy Nix with bicycle beside bandstand at the Fayetteville Square, ca. 1900. Courtesy Shiloh Museum of Ozark History / Washington County Historical Society Collection (P-1210).

was very large, and the valuable documents needed professional library care, restoration, and preservation.

Among the many items donated was a large treasure trove of photographs, which was later formed into the Washington County Historical Society Collection and housed at the Shiloh Museum of Ozark History's archives in Springdale. Everyday scenes of the history of the region seemed to be a specialty of photographs collected by Feathers. His collection included everyday people, performing everyday tasks, many of whom were not public or elected officials nor rich and prominent in the community. Many of these photographs can be found in the 2011 publication of *Images of America: Fayetteville*, by Charles Y. Alison and Ellen K. Compton on behalf of the Washington County Historical Society.

Feathers served as secretary/treasurer for several terms under the leadership of W.J. Lemke, who also served four years (1951-1954) as president, to be followed by Dr. Fount Richardson, who served two years (1955-1956) as president. Feathers was president from 1961 through 1962 and would later be the first person to serve more than a single 2-year term. He was re-elected as president in 1967 and served three years until 1969.

At Feather's election as the first WCHS secretary/treasurer in early April of 1951, Lemke and co-founder Lessie Stringfellow Read turned over their records of the 86 paid memberships and $175 balance in local banks. The $2 membership fee swelled membership as activities grew promoting the society to 179 memberships by the end of the year.

Vice president at the time was Jobelle Holcombe, and the six board members appointed from the first gathering of interested citizens were Grace Albright, Mary Droke, A.S. Humphries, F. H. McConnell, Mrs. L.S. Reed and F. S. Root.

It would be 24 years before the first woman would lead the WCHS. Carolyn Newbern of Fayetteville was elected to a 2-year term, serving 1975 to 1976. In this the start of the 71st year, Lee Anne Wiederkehr of Fayetteville was elected president, the first woman in a decade to serve in that post since Diana McKee Strange held the office in 2009 to 2011. Since 1951, eight women have been president of the society. They are Carolyn Newbern, 1975-76; Lois Lawson Morris, 1983-84; Pat Donat, who was twice elected, first in 1986-87 and again in 1990; Jean Newhouse, 1992-1993; Ann Wiggins Sugg, 1996 and again in 2002-2004; Di-

WCHS President Jim Spillars and the Battle of Fayetteville diorama produced by Cody Faber of Fort Smith. The diorama is on display in Headquarters House Museum. Photograph by Maylon Rice.

ana McKee Strange, 2009-2011 and Wiederkehr, 2022-2023.

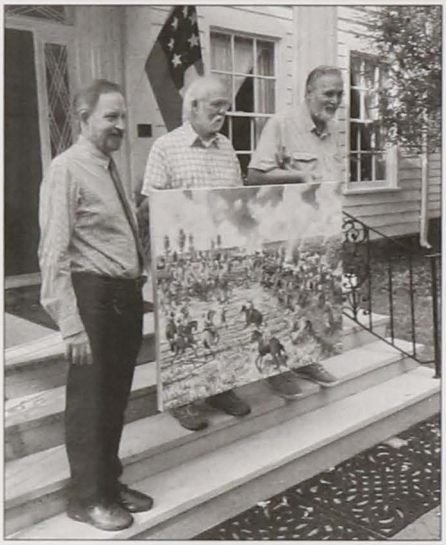
Women have long dominated the board of trustees over the years, often serving in more board positions than their male counterparts. The first board in 1951 was an even 3-men/3-women split. Today's board of trustees (2022-2023) has 16 women and 13 men serving as board members.

At the end of 1951, the activities of the board included the publishing of six issues of the *Flashback*. Now in its 70th year, there have been more than 300 issues of *Flashback* printed and well over 100 issues of a newsletter of information to the membership called *Flashforward*. The *Flashback* became a quarterly publication in the 1970s, with a few exceptions of a bonus issue over the years. In 1951, there were five public programs and three historical "pilgrimages," or road trips, many to spots outside of Fayetteville.

The mimeographed pages of the *Flashback* written by Lemke were filled with notations of donated or loaned letters, journals, business records, and everyday communications from the early days of Washington County, all reprinted on its pages for members to enjoy.

As we close 2020-2021, under the leadership of President Jim Spillars, the WCHS has again kept its paid membership involved with not only the quarterly publication of *Flashback* but also the bi-monthly newsletter *Flashforward*. The society maintains a Facebook page and website, being constantly updated with information on the sale of historical books from the WCHS bookstore as well as new electronic posts of information.

During the last two years, the society has sponsored a virtual Diverse Settlers Committee program, met each month via Zoom, and, during the times when it was safe to meet, had its 2020 Christmas Program outside with carolers performing while Father Christmas passed out wrapped candy canes for the children. Also, several manuscripts in *Flashback* have been honored by the Arkansas Historical Association's Annual Awards Ceremony. One recent past WCHS leader, J. B. (Jerry) Hogan, who served as president in 2013-2015, won the prestigious Tom Dillard Advocacy of History Award. During the covid pandemic, Hogan wrote,



Painting by Dan Hoffbauer of Bella Vista depicting the Battle of Fayetteville, displayed by (from left), WCHS President Jim Spillars, J.B. Hogan, and the artist. Photograph by Maylon Rice.

edited, and produced some 30 videos of the history of Fayetteville and Washington County.

However, the uptick in the covid variants had the society cancel both its 2020 and 2021 in-person annual meetings. Instead, both meetings were held virtually with the 2021 meeting featuring pre-recorded videos of the pair of Distinguished Citizens for each year, along with acceptance speeches from Dr. Margaret Clark of Fayetteville; Susan Parks-Spencer of Prairie Grove; Frank Sharp of Fayetteville, and Shirley Spears of Cincinnati.

One meeting of the Out in the County Committee was held in 2021 with a trip to the Morrow Homestead in the community of Morrow to visit a rehabilitated 1828 cabin built by the Rev. George Morrow, the community's founder and namesake.

Two very special additions were made to the WCHS in 2021. One was a 1/64-scale diorama produced by Cody Faber of Fort Smith. The diorama scene depicts the Battle of Fayetteville on April 18, 1863. The other addition was a 48-by-36-inch painting depicting the Battle of Fayetteville by artist Dan Hoffbauer of Bella Vista. The canvas is on loan from the artist for display in Headquarters House Museum.

Over the years the central focus of the WCHS hasn't wavered from its often-used mantra: "Preserving Our Past For Future Generations." As a board member and past president of the WCHS, I have come to believe the histories of people, their condition, places, events, and situations represent a search for truth in each of us—a search for truth that is tinged with a subjective view of the present. Such a search, even today here in Washington County gives each of us a perspective and depth not all truly understand, but a truth of perspective and depth that history will bear out.

Flashback 2021 Index

A

Ad Hoc Committee for the Preservation of Mental Chastity, Issue I:33
African American Bean Cemetery, Issue II:75
African American burial sites, Issue III:120
Agri Annex, Issue I:6
Agricultural, Mechanical and Normal College, Issue I:13
Agriculture Building, Issue I:6
Air Dome, Issue II:83
Albright, Grace, Issue IV:185
Ali, Muhammad, Issue I:24-40
Alison, Charles, Issue I:10; Issue IV:185
Amazing Tree of Fayetteville, Issue III:146
American Civil Liberties Union (Arkansas Chapter), Issue I:25-26
American Legion M.M. Eberts Post 1, Issue I:28-29
American Legion Post 334 (Pulaski County), Issue I:28
Ames artillery saber, Issue III:127
Ames Company, Issue III:128
Ames foot officer's sword, Issue III:127
Archer, Evangeline Pratt Waterman, Issue II:97
Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Center, Issue I:6
Arkansas Archeological Survey, Issue III:123
Arkansas College, Issue IV:163
Arkansas Constitutional Convention, Issue I:8
Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service, Issue IV:154
Arkansas Democrat, Issue I:25, 29
Arkansas Extension Homemakers Council, Issue IV:155, 159
Arkansas Extension Service, Issue IV:157, 159
Arkansas Gazette, Issue I:25, 26, 28, 29, 30, 31, 33
Arkansas Historical Association, Issue IV:186
Arkansas Historical Quarterly, Issue III:150
Arkansas Home Demonstration Club, Issue IV:159
Arkansas House of Representatives, Issue I:25, 29
Arkansas Industrial University, Issue I:3, 5, 6, 8; Issue IV:163
Arkansas Library Commission, Issue IV:159
Arkansas Medical Society, Issue I:5
"Arkansas On Campus," Issue I:16
Arkansas Peace Information Center, Issue I:26
Arkansas State Archives, Issue IV:159
Arkansas State Board of Health, Issue III:109, 111
Arkansas State Senate, Issue I:26
Arkansas Supreme Court, Issue I:8
Arkansas Traveler, Issue I:10, 13, 29, 30, 31, 33; Issue IV:183
Arkansas Union, Issue I:18
ARKnet, Issue I:17
Armstrong, Louis, Issue IV:183
Army Air Corps band concert, Issue I:11
Army Air Corps trainees, Issue I:12
Army Specialized Training Program, Issue I:12
Ashburton, Lord, Issue I:45, 46

B

Bandini, Father Pietro, Issue II:67
Bank of Winslow, Issue II:93

Baptist Ford Home Demonstration Club, Issue IV:158
Barnes and Bailey (Cane Hill), Issue II:90
Barney, Chester, Issue II:78
Barnhill Arena (Fieldhouse), Issue I:9, 30, 36
Barnhill, John, Issue I:12
Barr, Frank, Issue II:83
Battle of Fayetteville, Issue IV:187
Battle of Fayetteville Commemoration, Issue III:130
Battle of Prairie Grove, Issue II:77, 78; Issue III:129
Battle of Wilson's Creek, Issue III:126
Baum Building, Issue II:83, 84
Benson, Marty, Issue IV:176
Benteen, Lieutenant Colonel Frederick, Issue II:79
Bethel Grove, Issue IV:160
Better Homes program, Issue IV:158
Bezdek, Hugo, Issue I:8
Bike Route bicycle shop, Issue IV:170
Bishop, Colonel Albert, Issue III:130
Blanchard, Belle, Issue III:109
Blue, U.S. Surgeon General Rupert, Issue III:114
Boho Gypsy Boutique, Issue IV:172
Botefuhr, Laura, Issue I:3
Bowden, Bill, Issue II:100
Boy Land Home (Winslow), Issue IV:158
Brewer, Dennis, Issue I:17
Bridgeforth, Emma, Issue I:3
British cavalry saber, Issue III:129
Britt, Lt. Gov. Maurice "Footsie", Issue I:28
Brodie, Lodawick, Issue III:124
Brooks, William, Issue I:3
Brown, Craig, Issue I:17
Brown, Isaac, Issue II:75, 79
Brownfield, Margaret H., Issue IV:161
Broyles, Frank, Issue I:8
Buchanan Hall, Issue I:6
Buchanan, Andrew, Issue II:74, 77, 80
Buchanan enslaved (Becca, Daniel, George, Isaac, Jane, John, Robe, Selia), Issue II:74, 75
Buchanan, James P., Issue II:74
Buchanan, John L., Issue I:6
Buchanan, Mary Woods, Issue II:74
Buchanan, Sinai, Issue II:74, 75, 76, 78, 79, 80
Buchanan, William T., Issue II:74
Buie, Frank, Issue I:3
Bumpers, Dale, College of Agricultural, Food and Life Sciences, Issue I:6
Burnett, Rusty, Issue I:17
Burnett, Sue Walk, Issue I:16
Burnett, Sue Walk, Journalism and Student Media Center, Issue I:17
Burrell, L.G. (Nick), Issue III:144
Busy Bees Home Demonstration Club, Issue IV:158
Bynum family, Issue III:139
Bynum, Beverly, Issue III:139
Bynum, Dale, Issue III:139
Bynum, Frances Lee, Issue 139
Bynum, Helen, Issue III:139
Bynum, Larry, Issue III:139
Bynum, Lonnie, Issue III:139
Bynum, Mickey, Issue III:139
Bynum (Walton), Nina Faye, Issue III:139
Bynum, Sammy, Issue III:139

C

Calaboose, Issue IV:173
Caldwell, Jim, Issue I:28, 32, 33
Camp Leroy Pond, Issue I:12

Camp Neil Martin, Issue I:12
Campaign Arkansas, Issue I:18
Campaign for the Twenty-First Century, Issue I:5, 17, 18
Campbell, Denele, Issue II:85
Campbell, W. J., Issue II:93
Campbell Bell Department Store, Issue III:143
Candor Brothers sawmill, Issue II:90
Cane Hill, Issue II:78
Cane Hill College, Issue II:78; Issue IV:163
Cane Hill EHC, Issue IV:163
Cantrell, Andrea, Issue IV:154
Cardinal color and mascot, Issue I:8
Carlisle, John, Issue I:3
Carnall Hall, Issue III:111
Carlson Terrace, Issue I:12
Carmichael, John, Issue I:7
Carmon, Dr. (Fayetteville), Issue II:90
Carnall Hall, Issue I:6
Carson, Olive, Issue I:3
Cartwright, Jacob, Issue I:42
Caudle family (in Woolsey), Issue II:89
Cemetery Hill at Farmington, Issue II:80
Chambers, Melvin T., Issue I:27, 30
Chappell, Linda Floyd, Issue IV:161
Charlton, Jesse Laurence, Issue III:136, 137
Chi Omega Greek Theatre, Issue I:11, 12
Chi Omega women's fraternity, Issue I:11
Childs, Lisa C., Issue III:124
Civil War, Issue II:73, 74, 79
Cvil War swords, Issue III:126-130
Clark, Joe Marsh, Issue II:100-102
Clark, Margaret, Issue III:150; Issue IV:187
Clark, Maxine, Issue II:100-102
Clay, Cassius (See Ali, Muhammad)
Coffman, Jim, Issue III:124
Cohoon, Ruth, Issue I:9
Collins, Ernest, Issue II:90
Colored Vigilant Committee, Issue I:44
Compton, Ellen, Issue IV:154; Issue IV:185
Confederate Cemetery, Issue III:122
Cooperative Extension Service, Issue I:6; Issue IV:155, 157
Count Basie Orchestra, Issue IV:183
County Agent – Family and Consumer Sciences, Issue IV:161
County Extension Agent – Home Economics, Issue IV:161
COVID-19, Issue III:106, 116
Crawford, Andrew, Issue II:76
Crawford, Rachel Tinnin Neal, Issue II:76, 78
Cross, Edward, Issue I:45
Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Issue II:74, 90
Curious Book Shoppe, Issue IV:171

D

Davis, Mrs. Con, Issue II:90
Davis, Lizzie, Issue I:3
Davis, Mary Anne, Hall, Issue I:12
Dellinger, Sam, Issue III:150
Demeroukas, Marie, Issue III:132, 133, 134, 137, 138, 139, 140
Department of Medicine, Issue I:5
Dever, Henry J. (grocery store), Issue IV:170
Dillard, Tom, Issue IV:187
Dirtbag, Issue IV:170
Diverse Settlers Committee, Issue IV:186
Donat, Pat, Issue IV:185
Donovan, Timothy, Issue I:15

Droke, Mary, Issue IV:185
Durning, Dan, Issue I:24
Dyer, William K., Issue III:110

E

Earnhart, Gerald Milton "Milt", Issue I:26, 27, 30, 32, 33, 36
East Mountain Cemetery, Issue III:120-125
East Rock Street, Issue III:120
Eaves, Duncan, Issue :15
Edgar, George, Issue I:5
Edmark, David, Issue I:2; Issue III:120
Egan, J. M., Issue II:90
Elkins EHC, Issue IV:163
Elliott, Blanche, Issue IV:156, 157
Ellis, Albert, Issue I:34
Ellis, U.S. Representative Clyde T., Issue III:134
Emancipator and Free American, Issue I:46
Evangeline's Cottage, Issue II:97
Evans, Mercer, Issue III:136
Evergreen Cemetery, Issue I:23; Issue II:93
Extension Service, Issue IV:157

F

Faber, Cody, Issue IV:186, 187
Faith in Action, Issue III:146
Farm Security Administration, Issue III:133, 134, 136
Farmer, Jasper, Issue II:87
Farmer, Martha, Issue II:91
Faubus, Gov. Orval, Issue I:26
Faulkner, Jim and Joyce, Performing Arts Center, Issue I:18, 19
Fayetteville, Issue II:83-84
Fayetteville City Board of Health, Issue III:109, 110, 111, 112, 114, 115
Fayetteville City Council Minutes, Issue IV:173
Fayetteville City Health Officer, Issue III:111
Fayetteville City Hospital, Issue III:110
Fayetteville City Jail, Issue IV:173, 174
Fayetteville Daily Democrat, Issue II:83, 84; Issue IV:184
Fayetteville Democrat, Issue II:83
Fayetteville Female Academy, Issue IV:163
Fayetteville Female Seminary, Issue IV:163
Fayetteville Humane Society, Issue IV:170
Fayetteville Ice Company, Issue III:110
Fayetteville Public Library, Issue III:146
Fayetteville Public Schools, Issue II:93
Feathers, Mildred, Issue IV:184
Feathers, Thomas C., Issue IV:184, 185
Fellows, Isaac, Issue II:87
Fellows, Matilda, Issue II:91
Fine Arts Center, Issue I:14, 18
First Arkansas Union Cavalry, Issue III:129
Flashback, Issue I:22-23; Issue II:92, 93; Issue III:148, 149, 150, 151; Issue IV:186
Flashforward, Issue IV:186
Flowers, Albert, Issue II:80
Flowers, Rebecca, Issue II:80
Forgotten Fayetteville, Issue II:83-84
Foster, Jerri Reed, Issue III:130
4-H Clubs, Issue IV:161
Fulbright, J. William, College of Arts and Sciences, Issue I:4; Issue III:144
Fulbright Expressway/Flyover, Issue III:143, 145
Futrall, John, Issue I:8; Issue III:108, 109, 112

G
Galloway, Paul V., Issue I:35
Garrett, Charity Kimmins, Issue IV:178
Garrett, James Bromfield, Issue IV:178
Garrison, C.W., Issue III:111, 114
Garrison, William Lloyd, Issue I:45
Gates, Noah, Issue I:3, 4
Gatewood, Willard, Issue I:15
Geiger, Major J.C., Issue III:113
Gibson Hall, Issue I:12
Gilbert, Allan, Jr., Issue I:32, 33
Gilbert, Mary H., Issue IV:161
Gilbreath, Cyrus R., Issue I:3
Gilstrap, Marguerite, Issue III:134
Goff, Anna, Issue IV:161
Goldenrod Club, Issue IV:157
Gordon, Ramona, Issue IV:161
Gorton, Belle, Issue I:3
Goshen Community Center, Issue IV:158
Goshen EHC, Issue IV:158, 159, 160, 161
Graham, Frances, Issue IV:161
Green, David, Issue II:93
Green, Mr. and Mrs. P.R., Issue I:23
Gregg, Albert W., Issue I:3
Gregg, Andrew S., Issue I:3
Gregg, Dr. (Fayetteville), Issue II:90
Gregory, Dick, Issue I:36
Growing 59ers, Issue IV:156

H
Hackett, Nelson, Issue I:41-47
Hackett (Nelson) Project, Issue I:41-47
Hale, Harrison, Issue III:114
Harding, Arthur, Issue I:12
Harrison, Col. M. LaRue, Issue I:23; Issue III:130
Hartney, Nancy, Issue III:143
Headquarters House, Issue I:23; Issue III:126, 129, 130; Issue IV:176, 184, 187
Hermann, Allen, Issue I:16
Hill, Daniel, Issue I:5
Hilltop Camps, Issue II:94-99
Hindman, Major General Thomas C., Issue II:77, 78
Hoffbauer, Dan, Issue IV:187
Hogan, J.B., Issue II:83-84; Issue III:106, 148; Issue IV:168, 186, 187
Holcombe, Jobelle, Issue I:4; Issue II:93; Issue IV:185
Holcombe Hall, Issue I:4
Home Demonstration Club Market, Fayetteville, Issue IV:156
Home Demonstration Club markets, Issue IV:156
Home Demonstration Clubs Council, Issue IV:155
Home Mission Service of the Baptist Church, Issue III:139
Home Missions Council of North America, Issue III:139
Hoover, James C., Issue III:116
Horstmann and Sons foot officer's sword, Issue III:127, 128
Horstmann company, Issue III:127, 128
Hortmann, William H., Issue III:127
Hudson, J.A., Issue IV:169
Humphries, A.S., Issue IV:185
Hunt, Silas, Issue I:13, 14; Issue III:144
Hunt, Silas, Memorial Sculpture, Issue I:14
Hutchens, Dicy, Issue II:88
Hutchens, Strangeman, Issue II:88

I
Iconoclasts, Issue I:11
Influenza Epidemic, Issue III:106-119

Ingram, Shadrach, Issue II:88

J

Jacob Yoes "stop," Issue II:86
Jarrell, Sarah Ann Jones, Issue IV:180
Jennison, Colonel Charles, Issue II:79
Jines, Billie, Issue III:138
John Williams House, Issue II:100-103
Johnson, Mike, Issue I:10
Jones, E. Fay, Issue II:101-102
Jones, Guy H. "Mutt", Issue I:27, 30, 32, 33, 36
Jones, J. Carl, Issue III:135

K

Karnes Cemetery, Issue II:91
Karnes, Oliver L., Issue II:87
Keeter, Jaclyn, Issue III:146
Kehn, Nancy Powell, Issue III:145; Issue IV:167
Keller, James M., Issue II:77, 78
Kelton, John L., Issue I:4
Kernodle, George R., Issue IV:180
Kernodle, Jennie Frances Schaub, Issue IV:180
Killian, Sharon, Issue III:120, 122, 123, 124
Kimmins, Joseph, Issue IV:178
Kimmins, Margaret "Peggy" Cooper, Issue IV:178
Kimpel, Ben, Issue I:15
Kimpel Hall, Issue I;16
King, Barbara, Issue IV:161
King, Harriet, Issue IV:161
Knott, John, Issue II:90
Koch, Catherine B., Issue IV:161
Kyle, Jo Ann, Issue IV:162

L

Lambeth, Amanda, Issue IV:180
Langston, J.M., & Co. general store, Issue II:90
Lavoie, William, Issue III:127
Lawson, Hugh, Issue III:143
Leary, Timothy, Issue I:36
Lease, George, Issue I:30
Leavitt, Joshua, Issue I:45, 47
Leflar, Robert A., Issue I:7, 13
Legion Hut, Issue IV:173
Lemke, Walter J., Issue I:22-23; Issue II:92, 93; Issue III:148, 149, 150, 151; Issue IV:185, 186
Lewis, Frank, Issue III:150
Liberator, Issue I:45
Liberty Loan Women in War Work, Issue III;109
Liberty School District 3, Issue II:88-89
Lighton, Bud, Issue III:112
Lighton, Laura, Issue III:112
Lighton, Will, Issue III:112
Little, Benjamin, Issue II:87
Little, Caroline, Issue II:91
Little Rock Reunion (badge, ribbon), Issue III:129
Lloyd Halls, Issue I:12
Loudermilk, Rev. James E., Issue I:35
Lowell, Samuel D., Issue III:122
Lyric Theatre, Issue II:83

M

Mae's Emporium, Issue IV:170
Marinoni, Antonio, Issue II:57; 58-72
Marinoni, John, Issue II:58
Marinoni, Rosa Zagnoni, Issue II:57, 69, 70
Markham Hill, Issue II:94
Markham, Joy Pratt, Issue II:94, 95, 97, 98
Marsh / Clark House, Issue II:100-103
Martin, Major George E., Issue III:108
Martin, James E., Issue I:15
McCart, Eva, Issue I:3

McConnell, F.H., Issue IV:185
McCulloch, General Benjamin, Issue III:126
McLaren, Mary, Issue II:83
McIlroy Bank building, Issue IV:173
McIlroy House, Issue I:15
McIlroy, William, Issue I:2
McKinney, Charles, Issue I:3
McKissick, Floyd, Issue I:24, 30, 31
McNair, Mr. (Fayetteville), Issue II:90
McPherson, Olli, Issue III:116
Merrifield, David, Issue I:17
Methodist Student Center, Issue I:35
Mill Creek, Issue II:86
Miller, Edythe, Issue IV:162
Miner, Loring, Issue III:106
Mitchell, John, Issue II:90
Mitchell, Lucian, Issue III:110
Mock Park, Issue II:74
Moore, Frank R., Issue III:110
Moore, W.D., Issue I:27, 28
Moore's Chapel Funeral Home, Issue II:93
Morris, Lois Lawson, Issue IV:185
Morrow, Rev. George, Issue IV:187
Morrow, Hugh Ellis, Issue I:6
Morrow Homestead, Issue IV:187
Morton, Mack, Issue III:111
Moser, Jeff, Issue III:138
Mullins, David, Issue I:25, 28, 29, 35, 36
Murdock, William, Issue I:45
Murphy, Gov. Issac, Issue I:3
Musgroves, Harry Lee, Issue III:110

N

National Guard Armory, Issue IV:173, 174
Neal, James P., Issue II:80
Neal, Lucy Tinnin, Issue II:75, 76
Neal, Preston (Bora), Issue II:80
Neal (Crawford), Rachel Tinnin, Issue II:75, 76
Neal, Thomas, Issue II:76, 78
Neal, William T., Issue II:76
Newbern, Carolyn, Issue IV:185
Newhouse, Jean, Issue IV:185-186
"Nine at Nine," Issue I:16
North Hills Medical Park, Issue III:143, 146
Northwest Arkansas African-American Heritage Association, Issue III:120, 122
Northwest Arkansas Area Migrant Committee, Issue III:139
Northwest Arkansas Times, Issue I:29, 32
Nott, William Henry Harrison, Issue II:86
Nott's mill, Issue II:86-87

O

O'Dell, W.A., Issue III:110
Office of Economic Opportunity (Washington County Health Department), Issue III:139
Old Guard, Issue I:27, 29, 32
Old Main, Issue I:3, 4, 14, 29
Old State House, Issue I:5
Old World Classics, Issue IV:170
Oldham, S.C., Issue II:91
"On the Hill," Issue I:16
Orpheum, Issue II:83
Orton, Lisa, Issue II:94
Ozark Coverlet Project, Issue IV:176

P

Paddock, C.B., Issue III:112, 114, 115
Page, Fred, Issue III:110
Palace Theatre, Issue II:83, 84
Parks-Spencer, Susan, Issue II:73; Issue III:150; Issue IV:187
Pastors Association, Issue III:112

Patch, Nahum W., Issue III:129
Pea Ridge battlefield, Issue III:127
Peoria Register, Issue I:42, 43
Pepper, Claude, Issue I:7
Phillips Plaza, Issue III:141
Phillips, Park, Issue III:141
Pierce, Michael, Issue I:41
Pike Guards, Issue III:126
Pine Bluff Commercial, Issue I:29
Pitkin, Issue II:89, 90
Pitkin "post office," Issue II:87-88
Pitkin school, Issue II:88-89
Pitkin, Erastus, Issue II:87, 90
Pitkin, J.M., saw and grist mill, Issue II:90
Pitkin's Corner, Issue II:88
Postage Stamp Buildings, Issue IV:168-174
Powell, Jim, Issue III:145; Issue IV:167
Prairie Congregation, Issue II:74
Prairie Grove, Issue II:73, 74, 76, 85
Price, General Sterling, Issue II:79
Pulaski (County) Businessmen's Association, Issue I:25
Putman, Anna, Issue I:3
Putman, Robert, Issue I:3

Q

R

Ramey, Sergeant Benjamin F., Issue III:129, 130
Raney, Dallas P., Issue I:35
Razorback athletics, Issue I:9, 12, 16
Razorback football, Issue III:110
Razorback Greenway, Issue III:146
Razorback Hall, Issue I:12
Razorback mascot, Issue I:8
Razorback Stadium, Issue I:8
Read, Lessie Stringfellow, Issue I:22; Issue III:151; Issue IV:185
Red River Campaign, Issue III:127
Reder, Eva, Issue III:140
Redford, Laura Lyon, Issue IV:176
Reed, Mrs. L.S., Issue IV:185
Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC), Issue I:11; Issue III:108
Reynolds, Donald W., Razorback Stadium, Issue I:9
Reynolds, John Hugh, Issue I:5, 11
Reynolds, W. J., Issue III:109, 112
Rice, Maylon, Issue I:22; Issue II:92; Issue III:148; Issue IV:184
Richardson, Fount, Issue IV:185
Rieff home, Issue II:93
Robertson, E.C., Issue II:83, 84
Robinson, Ben, Issue II:90
Rockefeller, Gov. Winthrop, Issue I:28, 36
Roosevelt, President Franklin D., Issue III:133, 135
Root, F. S., Issue II:93; Issue III:112; Issue IV:185
Rule, Herbert, III, Issue I:32, 33, 34
Rutherford's Store, Issue II:86

S

"Sally", Issue III:123, 124
Sample, W.D., Issue II:91
Sand Hog, Issue I:10
Sawyer, Sophie, Issue II:93; Issue IV:163
Scott Surgical Appliances, Issue IV:170
Senior Walk, Issue I:9, 10
Serendipity Club, Issue IV:156, 160
Sharp, Frank, Issue IV:187
Shelton, Lynn, Issue III:107
Sheng, Zhengzhi, Issue I:16
Shiloh Museum of Ozark History, Issue III:133, 136, 137, 142; Issue IV:185
Simpson, Ethel C., Issue IV:154
Skelton, Kathryn, Issue IV:155, 162, 163

Skydome, Issue II:83
Slaughter, Sarah Katherine Jarrell, Issue IV:180
Slavery in Washington County, Issue III:121, 122
Smith, Gerrit, Issue I:46
Smith, Harvey, Jr., Issue III:143, 144, 145, 146
Smith, Harvey, Sr., Issue III:144, 146
Smith, Ted J., Issue III:122
Snipes, Ruth Ann, Issue III:139
Sonneman, W.F., Issue II:84
Southeastern Conference, Issue I:8
Southern Cross (badge), Issue III:129
Southern Memorial Association, Issue III:122
Southwest Conference, Issue I:8
Spanish Flu (Influenza Epidemic), Issue III:106-119
Spears, Shirley, Issue IV:187
Special Collections, University of Arkansas Libraries, Issue IV:163, 173, 184
Special Witness Tree, Issue III:143, 146
Sperindo Restaurant and Hotel, Issue I:5
Spillars, Jim, Issue III:126; Issue IV:186, 187
Spock, Benjamin, Issue I:36
Sprick, Dan T., Issue I:26, 27, 28, 30, 36
Springbrook Farm, Issue III:143-147; Issue IV:167
Springdale City Library, Issue II:93
Springdale Chamber of Commerce, Issue III:133, 135, 139
Springdale Migrant Farm Workers Camp, Issue III:132-142
Springdale Public Schools, Issue III:140
Stewart, A.D., Issue III:135
Stewart, Charles, Issue I:43
Stirman, Colonel Erasmus "Ras", Issue III:126, 127, 128, 129
Stockburger, Cassandra, Issue III:139
Stockburger, Charity, Issue II:91
Stockburger, Jacob, Issue II:87
Stone, Edward Durrell, Issue I:12, 14
Stonesifer (var. Stonecifer, Stonecipher) family (in Woolsey), Issue II:89
Strange, Diana McKee, Issue IV:185, 186
Student Army Training Corps (SATC), Issue III:108, 110, 111, 112
Sugg, Ann Wiggans, Issue IV:186
Sutton, Canzada, Issue III:123
Symposium '69, Issue I:24-40

T

Tappan, Lewis, Issue I:45, 46
Taylor, T.J., Issue IV:173
The Democrat, Issue II:68
The Ozark, Issue I:3, 11
"The Sports Advantage," Issue I:16
The Statesman, Issue I:34
The University Weekly, Issue I:10, 11
Thomas, Daniel, Issue II:87
Thomas, David Yancey, Issue I:5, 11
Thomas, Herbert, Issue III:143, 144; Issue IV:167
Thomas, Ruby, Issue III:143; Issue IV:167
Thompson, Josh, Issue III:123
Tibbets, Mr. and Mrs. Jonas, Issue I:23
Tillman, John, Issue I:11; Issue II:68
Tollett, Dennis, Issue II:75, 76
Tollett, Harry (Henry, aka Uncle Harry), Issue II:75, 76, 79, 80
Tollett, Henry Clay, Issue II:75, 76, 80

Tollett, Rebecca Brown (Becca), Issue II:73-82
Tolley, Dorothy, Issue IV:155, 160
Toms, J. Mason, Issue II:102-103
Toomey, John M., Issue III:110

U
UA Medical Center, Issue I:5
UA System, Issue I:5
UATV, Issue I:16
Underground Railroad, Issue I:43
United Church Women of Springdale, Issue III:139, 140
University Boars Head Summer Theatre, Issue I:18
University Concert Band, Issue I:18
University Concert Choir, Issue I:18
University Hall, Issue I:4
University Jazz Band, Issue I:18
University Master Chorale, Issue I:18
University Music Theatre, Issue I:18
University of Arkansas, Issue I:2-21; Issue II:59-61, 64-67, 69, 70; Issue II:92, 93, 95
University of Arkansas:
Board of Trustees, Issue I:3, 5, 15, 34, 35; Issue III:144
College of Agriculture, Issue I:6
Department of Landscape Architecture, Issue III:120, 124
Division of Agriculture, Issue I:6; Issue IV: 154
Facilities Use Committee, Issue I:34, 35
Faculty Council, Issue I:35
Fay Jones School of Architecture, Issue II:102
Flu Epidemic, Issue III:108-114
Foreign Relations Club, Issue I:35
Fulbright College of Arts and Sciences, Issue I:41
Graduate School, Issue I:18
Honors College, Issue I:18
Humanities Center, Issue I:42
Infirmary, Issue III:109, 110
Medical Sciences
Physics Department, Issue I:16
Press, Issue I:15
School of Journalism and Strategic Media, Issue I:16
School of Law, Issue I:7, 13, 14; Issue II:97; Issue III:144
Student Bar Association, Issue I:34
Student Senate, Issue I:35
University Opera, Issue I:18
University Schola Cantorum, Issue I:18
University Shakespeare Theatre, Issue I:18
University Symphonic Band, Issue I:18
University Symphony Orchestra, Issue I:18
University Wind Symphony, Issue I:18

V
Van Dalsem, Paul, Issue I:32
Van Winkle, Peter, Issue I:4
Veterans of Foreign Wars (Arkansas Chapter), Issue I:28
Veterans Village, Issue I:12
Victory Theatre, Issue II:83, 84
Viney Grove, Issue II:85
Volunteer Service Team of the Mennonite Central Committee, Issue III:139

W
Wade family, Issue III:122
Wade, Clifton, Issue I:28
Waggener, William J., Issue I:3

Walker, David, Issue II:93; Issue III:121, 122, 124
Walker, Jacob Wythe, Issue III:122
Walker, Rev. Wyatt Tee, Issue I:34, 35
Walker-Sutton grounds (cemetery), Issue III:120
Walker-Sutton plot, Issue III:122
Wallace, Alfred, Issue I:41, 42, 43, 44, 45
Wallace, Willis, Issue I:42
Walter, William V., Issue III:110
Walton, Bud, Arena, Issue I:9
Walton Family Charitable Support Foundation, Issue I:18
Walton, Nina Faye Bynum, Issue III:139
Walton, Rhonda, Issue III:139
War Eagle Fair, Issue IV:157
War Eagle Mill, Issue I:4
Ware, Patricia A., Issue III:146
Warnock, Col. John N., Issue I:29
Washington, Booker T., High School, Issue I:13
Washington County Council of Rural Women's Clubs, Issue IV:155, 158
Washington County Courthouse, Issue IV:173
Washington County Distinguished Citizen Award, Issue III:150
Washington County Extension clubs' records: Butterfield, Elkins, Goshen, Savoy, Growing 59ers, Serendipity, Bethel Grove, Moonlighters, Sky Hill, Stony Valley, Viney Grove, Winslow, Combs Chapel, Goldenrod, Habberton, Oak Grove, White Rock, Washington County Council, Issue IV:155
Washington County Extension Homemakers Council, Issue IV:155, 159, 160, 163
Washington County Fair, Issue IV:162, 163
Washington County Fair Board, Issue IV:162
Washington County Farm Women's Market, Issue IV:156
Washington County Health Department (Office of Economic Opportunity), Issue III:139, 143
Washington County Historical Society, Issue I:22-23; Issue II:92-93; Issue III:126, 127; Issue III:148-151; Issue IV:184-186
Washington County Jail, Issue IV:173
Washington Regional Medical Center, Issue I:5; Issue III:143, 146
Washington Regional Medical Foundation, Issue III:146
Waterman Hall, Issue I:7
Waterman, Julian S., Issue I:7; Issue II:97
Watkins, Patsy G., Issue III:132
Webb, Ann, Issue IV:163
Webster-Ashburton Treaty, Issue I:46
West Fork, Issue II:85-91
West Fork "post office," Issue II:87
White, John, Issue I:17, 18
White, L. T., Issue III:110
White River, Issue II:85, 86, 89
Wiederkehr, Lee Anne, Issue IV:185, 186
Wilkins, Roy, Issue I:13
Willard Walker Hospice, Issue III:143
Willets, Major Charles E., Issue II:78
Williams, Callie, Issue II:101-102
Williams, John, G. Issue II:100-103
Williams, Miller, Issue I:15
Wilson, Charles Morrow, Issue I:14
Wilson, U.S. President Woodrow, Issue III:113
Winn Creek, Issue II:86, 89
Winn, Robert, Issue II:88, 89, 90
Winslow, Issue II:86, 89, 90

Winslow (Home Demonstration) Club, Issue IV:158, 160, 162
Women's sports, Issue I:9
Woolsey, Issue II:85-91
Woolsey Cemetery, Issue II:86, 88
Woolsey mill, Issue II:86, 88
Woolsey "post office," Issue II:87, 89
Woolsey school, Issue II:88-89
Woolsey, Charity, Issue II:87, 91
Woolsey, Charity Hutchens, Issue II:87, 91
Woolsey, Elizabeth Caroline, Issue II:87
Woolsey, Elvira Davidson, Issue II:86-87
Woolsey, Harriet Beal, Issue II:87, 88
Woolsey, James W., Issue II:88
Woolsey, John D., Issue II:87, 88, 91
Woolsey, Lavina Matilda, Issue II:87
Woolsey, Martha, Issue II:87, 91
Woolsey, Mary Catlett, Issue II:87
Woolsey, Mary Jane, Issue II:86-87
Woolsey, Miranda Goff Bittick, Issue II:87, 88
Woolsey, Penelope Carter, Issue II:87
Woolsey, Samuel, Issue II:85
Woolsey, Samuel Lewis, Issue II:87, 91
Woolsey, Sarah, Issue II:87
Woolsey, William, Issue II:85-91
Woolsey's Store, Issue II:86, 87, 88, 90
Works Progress Administration, Issue I:8
Wright, Glenda Emery, Issue III:138
Wright, William, Issue II:90-91

X

X-Ray, Issue I:11

Y

Yates, Dr. (Fayetteville), Issue II:90
Yates, W.N, Issue III:111, 112
Yell, Archibald, Issue II:93
Yoes stop, Jacob, Issue II:86
Young Democrats Club, Issue I:30
Young Republican Club, Issue I:29-30, 32
Young Turks, Issue I:29
Young, Paul, Jr., Issue III:143, 146

Z

Zagnoni, Rosa (Rosina), Issue II:57, 69, 70
Zimmerman, Robert, Issue I:17
Zotti, Mike, Issue III:140

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